

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 5-9 with the following amended paragraph:

After multiplexing all the data-modulated optical channels in multiplexer 140, those channels are transmitted through an optical path ~~150160~~, which may be part of a standard optical network. Similarly, after multiplexing all the unmodulated optical channels in multiplexer 130, those channels are transmitted through an optical path ~~160150~~ which may also be part of a standard optical network. The standard optical network may include optic fiber and/or free space optical paths.